



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200000077

Date: January 30, 2001

Comments Due: March 1, 2001

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to discharge fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, during construction of industrial facilities at the PG&E parcel of the Foothill Business Park located in Rocklin, Placer County, California as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Leland D. Bolger
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
1050 High Street, 3rd Floor
Auburn, California 95603

LOCATION: The PG&E parcel of the Foothills Business Park is located in the Southern portion of the Sunset Industrial Area, approximately 0.5 mile northeast of the intersection of Blue Oaks Boulevard and Foothills Boulevard, at the end of Duluth Avenue. The site is within the U.S.G.S. 7.5" Roseville quadrangle and includes a portion of Section 16, Township 11 North, and Range 6 East.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this project is to construct light industrial facilities. Proposed industrial development at the 26.4-acre parcel would result in the permanent fill of 0.92 acre of waters of the United States, consisting of 0.14 acre of drainage swale, 0.34 acre of seasonal wetland, 0.41 acre of vernal pools, and 0.03 acre of palustrine emergent habitat. These waters would be filled during the construction of building pads, infrastructure, and a storm drain outfall in Pleasant Grove Creek. An additional 0.08 acre of palustrine emergent habitat would be temporarily impacted during construction of the storm drain outfall and connection of a sewer line to an existing manhole. Temporarily disturbed wetlands would be restored to original grade after construction is complete. The applicant proposes to mitigate for wetland losses through the purchase of wetland credits at a 2:1 ratio at the Wildlands Mitigation Bank in Placer County. Additionally, since the site contains potential habitat for federally listed threatened and

endangered vernal pool crustaceans, the applicant proposes to mitigate for the loss of vernal pools and seasonal wetlands in accordance with the *Programmatic Formal Endangered Species Act Consultation on Issuance of 404 Permits for Projects with Relatively Small Effect on Vernal Pools Within the Jurisdiction of the Sacramento Field Office, California* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, April 4, 1995). The applicant also proposes to mitigate for indirect impacts to a 0.36 acre vernal pool located immediately outside the development footprint.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The site is bordered on the East by a Southern Pacific rail line and on the West, North, and South by light industrial development and annual grassland. The PG&E parcel has topographic elevations ranging from approximately 110 feet to 125 feet above sea level. The PG&E parcel consists of annual grassland with no shrubs or trees. Pleasant Grove Creek is located to the North and is separated from the PG&E site by an adjacent parcel.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A record search was conducted by the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System on October 27, 1999, for known prehistoric, historic, and cultural resources within the project site. No recorded sites were indicated as occurring within the proposed project site.

Presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), a federally listed threatened species, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), a federally listed endangered species may be present on the site and may be affected by construction activities. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be initiated once all necessary information has been submitted by the applicant.

Additionally, California Department of Fish and Game special status animal and plant species may be present on the project site and may be affected by the proposed project. Special status animal species include the western spadefoot (*Scaphiopus hammondi*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), and tri-colored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*). The special status plant species include the big-scale balsam root (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis* var. *macrolepis*), dwarf downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), legenere (*Legenere limosa*), hispid bird's beak (*Cordylanthus mollis* ssp. *hispidus*), Bogg's Lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), and Red Bluff dwarf rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *leiospermus*). None of the above listed special status plant species were detected on the project site during field surveys conducted by the applicant's agents.

The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **February 28, 2001**. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If additional information is required, please contact Terry Huffman of Huffman and Associates, Inc., telephone (415) 925-2000, or Mr. William Ness, at the letterhead address, telephone (916) 557-5268.

Michael J. Walsh
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures: 8 Drawings